

HOUSE BILL 3285

By Campfield

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4,
Chapter 4, Part 1, relative to the purchase of
bottled water by state governmental entities.

WHEREAS, many state operated or owned offices provide bottled water for the workers and visitors in such buildings; and

WHEREAS, the cost of bottled water, which includes costs for bottling, marketing, transportation, and delivery, is exorbitant when compared to water obtained from municipal and private water treatment systems; and

WHEREAS, numerous studies have found that tap water is as safe or safer than bottled water; and

WHEREAS, bottled water containers are often thrown away, reducing vital capacity in landfills and despoiling Tennessee's pristine landscape when emptied containers are carelessly tossed outside; and

WHEREAS, when state revenues are especially constrained by a languishing state economy it is vital to pursue all practicable savings and economic efficiencies; now, therefore,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4, Chapter 4, Part 1, is amended by adding the following as new sections thereto:

Section 4-4-126. Unless access to potable water is not available, the department of general services is directed not to enter into or renew any contract or agreement to provide bottled water for any building for which it provides services. The department may provide a supply of bottled water that is sufficient for emergency occurrences. This section shall not apply to any correctional or detention facility.

Section 4-4-127. No department, agency, commission, council, board, or other state governmental entity shall expend funds from state revenues to purchase bottled water. This section shall not be construed to interfere with any existing contract; provided, that no contract for the purchase of bottled water shall be renewed after the effective date of this act. This section shall not apply if the facility in which a department, agency, commission, council, board, or other state governmental entity is located does not have potable water accessible to persons using such facility. A department, agency, commission, council, board, or other state governmental entity may provide a supply of bottled water that is sufficient for emergency occurrences. This section shall not apply to any correctional or detention facility, or to the sale of bottled water by any department, agency, commission, council, board, or other state governmental entity.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.